

CM/ECF Project Update

August, 2002

The last update mentioned that we had taken it upon ourselves to develop an efficient method of converting old images from Web PACER to CM/ECF. We are very pleased to announce that all images have now been converted, and are available under CM/ECF, so there is no longer any need to access Web PACER.

Another milestone has been reached with the beginning of training for electronic filing. On July 26 in Portland and July 31 in Bangor, the chapter 7 trustees and their staffs completed the training provided by Clerk's office staff, thus preparing them to begin electronic filing on August 19, 2002. The chapter 13 trustee and staff will be trained on August 2, and the U.S. Trustee's office staff the following week. Training for the pilot attorney-filer group will be held early in September, with a go-live date immediately following. There will then be a break of about a month to allow Clerk's Office staff to ease in to their new duties of assisting filing attorneys with electronically filed transactions.

A draft of standing orders and administrative procedures was submitted to the local rules committee for their review. They will be finalized shortly and made available on this web site as soon as they have been signed. Version 2 of the software has been delayed at the national level, and we have decided to go ahead with our implementation of ECF as planned, rather than waiting until it is available. When it is introduced later this year, it should be transparent to ECF filers, so you won't have to worry about retraining.

Even though you're not yet filing electronically, you can still use your current PACER ID to get information from the data base. If you haven't yet tried the query or reports functionality, you can run through the tutorial on our web site to see what's available. Once you start using it, if you have any questions, we'll do whatever we can to help you get what you need.

A recent decision by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts limits the charge for a single PDF document to 30 pages retrieved from CM/ECF sites. Effective April 1, 2002, the maximum charge for a PDF document obtained from a CM/ECF site is \$2.10. Previously a 50 page document cost \$3.50 at 7 cents a page. This same document now costs only \$2.10. Users will receive the entire 50 page document but only be charged \$2.10. This "cap" applies only to PDF documents accessed from CM/ECF sites. The "cap" does not apply to docket sheets, reports, or documents obtained from sites other than CM/ECF. Each attachment in a case filed in CM/ECF is considered a separate document, therefore, the "cap" will apply to each attachment over 30 pages.

Once again, we'd like to remind everyone that there is a standing order regarding the proper format for filings, which is available on the local rules page of this web site. These requirements are critical for the scanning of all documents, since the electronic file is now the official file of the court, and following them will help us create quality images.